

**Okemos Board of Education
Okemos, Michigan 48864
REGULAR MEETING NOVEMBER 22, 2021**

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11-22-2021

<p>The Regular meeting of the Okemos Board of Education was called to order by President Bolton at 7:04 p.m.</p>	<p>Call To Order</p>
<p>Members Present: Dean Bolton, Katie Cavanaugh, Mary Gebara, Melanie Lynn, Vincent Lyon-Callo, Andrew Phelps and Jayme Taylor</p> <p>Administrators: Superintendent John Hood; Assistant Superintendent Stephen Keskes; Assistant Superintendent Stacy Bailey; and Finance Director Elizabeth Lentz</p>	
<p>Superintendent Hood along with Representatives from the Christman Company and TowerPinkster presented an update regarding the district's proposed 2022 bond. Mr. Hood reviewed key election dates pertaining to a proposed 2022 bond for a November 2022 election. The current debt levy, and its payoff in 2025-2026 and its impact on funding was explained. Superintendent hood also described the following: overview of the process; committee membership and purpose; scope of the bond; positioning for the future; and survey analysis. Community forums and interactive communication with the community will help inform the recommendation. Superintendent Hood reviewed recent survey data which will develop priorities. Next steps were described including an upcoming survey regarding grade configurations.</p>	<p>Bond Update</p>
<p>Members discussed the following: including timelines within the survey; bond uses and conditions; using bond funds to free up the general fund; communication with the community; timelines; green and sustainable projects; enrollment and tracking unenrolled students; and the marketing of district needs.</p>	
<p>Operations Director Mark Fargo provided an update regarding facilities, cleaning and operations including staffing, wage increases, overtime and next steps. Concerns with the district's third-party cleaner were addressed.</p>	<p>Facilities Update</p>
<p>Members inquired about a possible breach of contract; and using volunteers.</p> <p>No one addressed the board.</p>	<p>Citizens Address Agenda & Non- Agenda Items</p>
<p>Student representatives Berelian and Nupur reported on the following: close contact communication; lunch tables; substitute teacher shortage; and mask usage.</p>	<p>High School Student Report</p>
<p>Superintendent Hood reported on the following: Covid testing clinic and testing shortage; what is considered a forgivable day as it pertains to meeting instructional time requirements; upcoming surveys regarding MiPhy student health assessment, mascot, grade configurations and Covid relief funds usage; upcoming town hall regarding Covid funding on December 7th via Zoom; expressed congratulations to the Transportation Department for earning 100% on safety inspections; and several administrators participating in leadership and enrichment opportunities.</p>	<p>Superintendent's Report</p>
<p>Assistant Superintendent Keskes reported on strategies OPS is implementing to address the substitute teacher shortage.</p>	
<p>Members inquired about the following: community engagement; student voice; mascot video; covid test situation; sub teachers and shortage; and the Covid dashboard.</p>	

President Bolton acknowledged correspondence from the following: Bryce Borgialli concerning Covid cases; Helen Skyles concerning a student incident; and Dennis Hart regarding the mascot change.

Members reported on the MASB conference; OEF Awards Banquet; and commitment to DEI initiatives.

Consent Agenda

MOVED by Andy Phelps, SUPPORTED by Mary Gebara that the board approve item 1 for immediate implementation and appropriate action:

Item 1: Approval of the minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 8, 2021.

AYE: 7 NAY: 0 ABSENT: 0 **MOTION CARRIED**

Employment -
Certified

MOVED by Mary Gebara, SUPPORTED by Katie Cavanaugh that the board approve the employment of Marybeth Birchmeier, 68% Exploratory Teacher at Cornell and Hiawatha Elementary at Division III, Step 4 of the teacher salary schedule, effective November 22, 2021 in accordance with sections 1230 (2) and 1230 a (2) of the Revised School Code conditioned upon receipt of acceptable criminal history checks and criminal records checks.

AYE: 7 NAY: 0 ABSENT: 0 **MOTION CARRIED**

Technology
Purchases

Media and Technology Director Tom Isom presented information regarding the purchase of interactive monitors including the bid process and timelines. The monitors will replace the smartboards, projectors and WiDi connections currently in classrooms and will be funded by the district's Facilities/Technology/Security/Transportation/Capital Outlay bond. The purchase will include the installation and de-installation of existing equipment.

Custodial Update

Operations Director Mark Fargo presented information regarding a roof renovation project including the bid process, recommendation and timelines. The roofing project at Chippewa Middle School will be funded through the district's building and site sinking fund.

DEI Update

DEI Director Slee and Assistant Superintendent Stacy Bailey presented information regarding an equity-oriented curriculum review tool developed by the Midwest Plains & Equity Assistance Center. Mrs. Bailey reviewed when the tool will be utilized, and what is included in the rubric, as well as implementation and support for teachers. The tool will be a significant part of the curriculum review and adoption process. The integration of the Equity Plan with curriculum and other departments and work throughout the district was discussed.

Dr. Slee also provided an equity update including: OEF funding specifically to support DEI initiatives; recent DEAI meeting and equity plan rewrite; and recent survey data.

Covid Relief
Funding

Finance Director Elizabeth Lentz provide an update regarding budget implications for ESSRIII Covid relief funding. Requirements regulating the funds was reviewed including reservation of funds; which students the funds can support; and stakeholder input. Next steps were described and include an upcoming survey, community town hall meeting, developing a budget and applying for the grant.

Members inquired about examples of using the funds to target learning loss.

Public Comment

Nathan Mahn addressed the board regarding equity and stakeholder definitions, classroom volunteers, vaccine status of substitutes, and indicating what is necessary vs. what is nice to have.

Reminder of the December 1st special meeting for the superintendent's evaluation.

Dean Bolton congratulated Matt Ottinger on successfully emceeding the OEF banquet.

President Bolton adjourned the regular meeting at 10:08 p.m.

Adjourn

Katie Cavanaugh, Secretary